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## BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

*Spanish and French Rivalry in the Gulf Region of the United States, 1678-1702: The Beginnings of Texas and Pensacola.* By William Edward Dunn (University of Texas Bulletin No. 1705. Studies in History No. 1), Austin, 1917.

Few if any more substantial contributions than this have been made in recent years to the history of Colonial North America. To fully appreciate its significance one should not only read the author's excellent Preface, but should also understand its relation to the development of the field which it covers. Dr. Dunn's book represents a distinct stage in the historiography of his subject. It may be regarded as a ripened product of the renaissance in early Texas history which began with Garrison some twenty years ago and has engaged the attention of McCaleb, Casís, Barker, Cox, Clark, West, Hackett, Hughes, Buckley, Austin, Rather, and others whose names are scattered through the twenty volumes of *THE QUARTERLY* of the Texas State Historical Association. Dr. Dunn has had the good fortune and the ability to reap where many have sown.

The work of this pioneer group consisted of two distinct tasks. In the first place, they gathered at the University of Texas, chiefly from the archives of Mexico, a large body of basic and erstwhile unknown materials for the field. In the gathering process Dr. Dunn himself, while still a young student, played an intimate and important part. In the second place, episode by episode, incident by incident, these workers digested the new material, until the chief blocks for the building of an historical structure were shaped, rough hewn though they were in some cases. For the period covered by Dr. Dunn, Clark's *Beginnings of Texas* has been the most substantial written result of these earlier efforts, and in some respects it has not yet been superseded.

With the field thus outlined, with this large body of material assembled as a basis, and with the accumulated experience acquired by himself and others in archives, Dr. Dunn assumed a new and double task. The archives of Mexico had been pretty thoroughly combed, but those of Spain had been very little util-

ized for the subject. Dr. Dunn repaired to them, and with admirable skill and energy in sixteen months made a comprehensive gathering of the rich materials which they contain. These documents supplement in important ways those formerly assembled, particularly since the Spanish archives contain the proceedings of the Council of the Indies, which reveal the larger relations of episodes which the Mexican and provincial archives often present as local problems.

Dr. Dunn's feat of gathering alone has been one of the noteworthy recent achievements in Southwestern history. But it is only half of his work. With all this large body of data old and new, and with a larger outlook than those who had gone before. Dr. Dunn proceeded to analyze *de novo* his entire fund of archive material. He has assembled the scattered episodes, turned fresh light upon them, given them new interpretation here and there, and woven them into a more symmetrical and comprehensive whole.

The scope of his book can best be gleaned from its table of contents. In eight chapters he treats "Early Phases, 1678-1685"; "La Salle's Colony, 1685-1686"; "Spanish Diplomacy in England, 1686"; "The Spanish Search for La Salle's Colony, 1686-1687"; "The Outcome of the Search, 1687-1689"; "The First Defensive Move of Spain: The Founding of Missions among the 'Texas' Indians, 1689-1694"; "The Second Defensive Move of Spain: The Occupation of Pensacola Bay, 1689-1698"; "The French Colonization of Louisiana, and the Impotence of Spain, 1698-1702."

Dr. Dunn's most important general contribution has been to show more fully and clearly than has been done before that the first occupation of Texas was but an incident in the international contest for the control of the entire Gulf area, more particularly of the northern Gulf coast from the Florida Peninsula westward, and that while the Spanish occupation of Pensacola was another incident in the same series, it occurred in 1698 and as a proximate result of the second French menace, rather than in 1696 and as a direct result of the La Salle incident, as some writers (Morfi, for example) have assumed.

Lesser contributions are numerous throughout the book. The author gives a fuller statement than his predecessors of Echagaray's

colonizing projects, makes known the correct date and clears up the circumstances under which the Spanish authorities first learned of the La Salle expedition; and sets forth the genesis of the larger plans for the search for the French. Chapter III is a valuable contribution to the general history of European diplomacy, and serves to reveal the importance in colonial days, usually overlooked, of affairs on the remote American frontiers in the shaping of European history.

In Chapters IV and V Dr. Dunn gives a more comprehensive statement than hitherto has been made of the different expeditions sent out by sea and land to discover La Salle's whereabouts. Notable in his account are the story of the little known Delgado expedition from Florida, and of the altogether unknown (I fancy) expedition of Retana from Chihuahua, instigated by the famous Indian Sabeata. In the chapter on the first occupation of Eastern Texas the chief contributions are the clear account of the little known relief expedition led by Gregorio de Salinas, and of the exact circumstances under which the remote mission was abandoned in the fall of 1693. Chapters VII and VIII contain a full and authoritative statement of the events leading to the occupation of Pensacola, and of Spain's impotence to eject the French intruders and her consequent acquiescence in the French occupation of Biloxi and Mobile Bay.

Not only on these unknown or imperfectly known episodes, but likewise on most of the well known episodes, Dr. Dunn adds a rich contribution of interesting facts drawn from new sources. The book is well written, has the necessary apparatus of professional scholarship, and, though a detailed monograph, possesses human interest. Dr. Dunn has proved himself a master of Spanish archives, highly competent to assemble materials, interpret them independently, and set forth the results. He has established himself as a leader in his chosen field.

If the reviewer's digestion were bad, if he had a grudge against the author, or if he felt it necessary to make this review an occasion to display his own knowledge, he might proceed now to pick flaws. But he has none of the afflictions, and he therefore refrains.

HERBERT E. BOLTON.